

Progress: Pocket Plus Neighbourhood Climate Action

Date: April 8, 2022

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: Executive Director, Environment & Energy

Wards: 14

SUMMARY

This report responds to a Council request in December 2021 for the Executive Director, Environment & Energy to provide a status report on the implementation of Pocket Plus, the next phase of the Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action to the April 26, 2022 meeting of Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

The City is supporting the **Pocket Plus project, as a neighbourhood scale implementation of TransformTO**, Toronto's Net-Zero Strategy by 2040, with efforts to leverage institutional assets and expertise, along with scaling-up activities by residents to reduce emissions in the neighbourhood and maximize opportunities for environmental transformation.

The Environment & Energy Division led the coordination of institutional stakeholders by organizing regular discussions and supporting partner organizations in the review of capital budgets, the evaluation of asset conditions, and identifying potential sustainability initiatives.

Below is a list of quick starts for climate action underway, including, but not limited to:

- Community Accessible Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations:
 - Fire Services working with Fleet Services are committing to deliver community accessible electric vehicle chargers at the Chatham Ave fire station parking lot;
 - TTC is committing to deliver two Level 2 EV chargers for staff (with potential of weekend accessible for the community);
 - Transportation Service and Toronto Hydro committing to deliver on-street EV chargers in the north and south portions of the neighbourhood;
 - TCHC is working with Fleet Services to host EV charging stations for residents;
- TTC Greenwood Complex: Energy Conservation and Decarbonization study & projects;
- Toronto Community Housing: Energy Audits and Deep Energy Retrofits Pathways;

- Residential Retrofits: first cohort of 10 homes on Net-zero pathway implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Environment & Energy recommends that:

1. Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report is an implementation initiative of TransformTO. The resources required to support this initiative have and will be included in the Operating Budgets of affected Divisions and Agencies as required for 2022 and future years and reflected through TransformTO progress reporting.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On December 15, 16, and 17, 2021 City Council request the Director, Environment and Energy to provide a formal status report the implementation of the next phase of Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan to the April 26, 2022 meeting of Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

[Agenda Item History - 2021.IE26.19 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

On February 2, 3, and 5, 2021 City Council City Council requested the Director, Environment and Energy and the relevant Division Head and Corporation Officials to support the next phase of Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, including the creation of an institutional round-table. City Council requested that staff submit a report on the scope and opportunities to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

[Agenda Item History - 2021.MM28.20 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

COMMENTS

Background

The "Pocket Change Project" a long-term transformation initiative focused on reducing the environmental footprint of the community through a suite of environmental actions for both residential and institutional stakeholders living and operating in the Pocket Neighborhood.

The community is made up of approximately 1,400 single-dwelling residential households and low-rise apartment buildings, but also contains a portfolio of publicly-

owned infrastructure, including: Greenwood TTC Subway yards; Toronto Community Housing; Phin Park; Toronto District School Board's First Nations Junior and Senior School (formerly Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute); a Fire Station; An Early Learning and Child Care Centre; École Élémentaire Catholique du Bon-Berger (French School).

Implementation, including Quick Starts with Timelines

The City is supporting the next phase of the Pocket Change Plus project with City-led efforts to leverage institutional assets, expertise to 'green' the neighbourhood and maximize opportunities for environmental sustainability. The City's involvement has secured commitments to TransformTO's Net-Zero by 2040 climate action strategy through the engagement with partner organizations and cooperation from institutional stakeholders.

The Environment & Energy Division led the coordination of institutional stakeholders by organizing regular discussions and supporting partner organizations in the evaluation of asset conditions, capital budgets planning, and identifying potential sustainability initiatives. A draft report was produced (entitled "Scope, Opportunities and Quick Starts") for institutional climate action attached to the staff report adopted by council in December 2021 ([Update: Pocket Plus Neighbourhood Climate Action \(toronto.ca\)](https://www.toronto.ca/updates/pocket-plus-neighbourhood-climate-action/)).

There are a number of **quick-starts underway**, as well as, medium and long term activities for climate action projects including, but not limited to:

- Community Accessible Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (Q3/Q4 2022):
 - Fire Services working with Fleet Services are committing to deliver community accessible electric vehicle chargers at the Chatham Ave fire station parking lot.
 - TTC is committing to deliver two Level 2 EV chargers for staff (potentially weekend accessible for the community)
 - Transportation Service and Toronto Hydro committing to deliver on-street EV chargers in the north and south portions of the neighbourhood
- Toronto Community Housing: Energy Audits and Deep Energy Retrofits Pathways (Q1 2023)
- Launch TTC's Innovation & Sustainability Program for Green Facilities and Greening TTC Fleet, as a model for sustainability and innovation:
 - Energy Audit Report for Greenwood Complex March 2022
 - Innovation and Sustainability Program Goals, Strategy and Plan June 2022
 - Wayside Renewable Energy Storage (3 Years) Q3 2022
 - Conservation and Energy Efficiency Study Final Report - Q4 2022
 - Decarbonization Study Final Report - Q4 2022
 - Potential for 2MW of rooftop PV (largest in Ontario) for TTC Yard
 - Resiliency Study Final Report - Q4 2022

- Community Engagement and Communication;

Q1 2023

- First cohort of 10 residential homes to identify the pathway for Net-zero retrofits and implementation.

City staff have also been engaged in a parallel effort with the Pocket Community Association (PCA) and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) process. These are complementary efforts that will help identify emission reduction and sustainability opportunities in the local community.

These efforts further build on ongoing staff engagement with local communities and neighbourhood based groups looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff are also working to finalize an agreement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for funding to support enhancements to the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP). These enhancements are intended to support residential decarbonization efforts, including those in the Pocket.

Next steps

1. Support partner organizations and agencies to establish an energy and emissions baseline and set their Net-Zero Pathway;
2. Deliver on quick starts, including EV Charging infrastructure in operation starting Fall 2022; and
3. Continue to develop a long-term, comprehensive Net-Zero Community Energy Implementation Plan, in cooperation with institutional stakeholders, residents, and other stakeholders, and a project delivery pathway including budgetary and capital expenditures.

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SIGNATURE

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